As regards the immediate letting in of water into the Puttery tank, it is not a matter which is so easy of solution as you seem to think. We have stored water in the Kodayar in the interests of irrigation. I have handed over your memorial to the Chief Engineer and I have asked him to see whether water could be let into that tank, in connection with the ensuing Mandakad festival.

80. Suggestions for improving the trade and sanitation of Colachel.

Mr. M. Nilakanta Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Colachel) represented that the town of Colachel had been a commercial centre from the time of its occupation by the Dutch and that even now four European Firms were having their business there. In view of the importance of the town, a canal known as the Ananda Victoria Martanda Varma Canal was opened and the trade of the place developed when it had land and water connection with the capital. Subsequently, when the canal silted up and it was auctioned away by the Government, the merchants had to transport their goods by the land route alone. They now found it very difficult to transmit these articles to other places owing to the exhorbitant rate of cart hire prevalent after the war. The Member referred to the survey of the Trivandrum-Nagercoil railway that was being conducted and requested that arrangements might be made to connect Colachel with the railway so as to improve the trade of the town.

He stated that Colachel was a municipal town with a fairly large population numbering nearly 8,000 inhabitants. He represented that the extension of the railway from Trivandrum to Nagercoil should be so constructed as to touch that important commercial town, alike in the interests of the Government and the people.

He next stated that the provision of a hospital in that town was an imperative necessity. The subject had been brought to the notice of the Government even as early as the sixteenth session of the Assembly, but no action had been taken on the representation so far. The provision of an Ayurveda Vaidyasala was another urgent need of the locality.

Dewan's reply.—Mr. Nilakanta Pillai, the question of taking the Trivandrum-Nagercoil Railway line through Colachel or near it is engaging the attention of the Government seriously, and if it is at all possible and if it appears distinctly advantageous, Government will approve of a line which goes as near Colachel as possible.

Then in regard to the conversion of the local dispensary into a hospital, I do not think that it is a matter of great urgency. I have seen the dispensary myself. It is in a good locality and I have given general instructions that in all dispensaries there should be emergency wards. Colachel is within short distances from, and has easy access to, Nagercoil, Neyyur, Thuckalai and other places where there are big hospitals. I therefore do not think that a hospital there is immediately necessary. If, luckily, you get a railway near Colachel and your town becomes more important, the question of the conversion of the dispensary there into a hospital will have to be considered. I do not think that it is a matter for immediate consideration.

As regards the establishment of an Ayurveda Vaidyasala there, the Director of Ayurveda says that it is not necessary to have one at Colachel. I do not agree with him. I think that Colachel is important enough to have an aided Ayurveda Vaidyasala, and I shall ask the Director of Ayurveda to include Colachel in the list of places where aided Vaidyasalas should be established next year.

81. Needs of the Padmanabhapuram Municipality.

Mr. K. N. Padmanabha Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Padmanabhapuram) began his representation by saying that the town of Padmanabhapuram, besides being the ancient capital of Travancore, was the seat of the Division from the time of its constitution till its abolition two years ago. Besides the Division Cutcherry, there were the District Hospital, the Munsiff's court, the Taluk Cutcherry, the first and the second Class Magistrates' courts, the Sub-Registrar's office, the Sanketam Cutcherry and the Police station. All these institutions were one by one transferred from the Fort to Thuckalai, the only remnant left being the new Additional District Magistrates' court. The Municipal office and the Panchayat and

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Bench Magistrates' courts were also held there. Formerly, the Fort was a busy place and presented a gay appearance. The two large fresh water reservoirs, the Pattanikulam and the Perumalkulam perenially fed by the Puttanar, the shrines within the Fort and the Kadamura market just near the West Fort gate held during the morning hours of the day, trading chiefly in fresh vegetables, contributed much to the happiness of the local inhabitants; but conditions had changed with the removal of the offices mentioned above. Unoccupied houses were now more numerous than occupied ones, bazaars were closed, shrines were not frequented, and in short, people were slowly emigrating from the Fort. Rumour was in the air that the Additional District Magistrate's court was also to be shifted to Nagercoil, and, if that was true, Padmanabhapuram Fort would soon be wholly deserted.

With a view to remedy the evils set forth above, the Member made the following suggestions:—

The Taluk Cutcherry and the Sub-Registrar's office might be transferred from Thuckalai to the Fort. At present those offices were held in the Satrom building at Thuckalai. There was enough room in the palace buildings where all the above offices were formerly held. Government were now spending Rs. 600 on account of rent for the Additional Munsiff's court building. That court might be conveniently shifted from those buildings to the Satrom building and thus the recurring expenditure of Rs. 600 per annum could be saved.

The Member next said that, as the municipal rules now stood, *porambokes* were under the control of the P. W. D., and the Revenue Departments as also the respective Municipal Councils. The roads within the Padmanabhapuram Municipality were maintained by the P. W. D., while the other lands at the disposal of the Government were under the control of the Revenue authorities and the Municipality. Such divided control was not advantageous. As an example, the Member cited that last year after the heavy showers in Vrischikam, the roads within the Municipality in many places were badly damaged. Accidents both to traffic and passengers were of daily occurence. The Municipality then proposed that it would attend to the repairs forthwith in case the P. W. D. transferred the sanctioned funds to that body. The P. W. D. member of the Municipality supported the proposal; but after long delay, an answer in the negative was received. If the amount that was spent on the repairs had been entrusted to the Municipality, the roads would have been repaired much earlier and the quality of work would have also improved. So, in the interests of the Municipality, he suggested that the roads within the municipal limits of Padmanabhapuram might be transferred to the Municipal Council with the money allotted for their repair and maintenance.

The other *poramboke* lands were under the control of the Municipal Council and the revenue authorities. When an application for the registry of a *poramboke* land within the Municipality was made by a private individual, the Tahsildar made a reference to the Municipality as to whether the application could be granted. In the majority of cases the Municipal Council did not favour registry, on the ground that the land would be of some use either immediately or at a future time.

Padmanabhapuram Municipality was a minor Municipality. All the resources of revenue, *viz.*, house tax, scavenging fee, professional tax, vehicle tax, and licences, had been tapped to the utmost, and the slender resources of that body were incapable of further expansion. The town was branded as malarious, and as such much had to be done by way of sanitary improvement. Pools, tanks, etc., had to be filled up, mosquitoes had to be destroyed, an adequate system of drainage had to be provided and lands for the opening of lanes at the back of streets for carrying on effective scavenging had to be acquired. If *poramboke* and other Government lands were at the disposal of the Municipality, they could be sold and the money utilised for the above purposes. The Member prayed that his request might be favourably considered.

The Member also requested that the Government grant to the Municipality might be continued at the present rate without reduction.

Dewan's reply.—Mr. Padmanabha Pillai, the question of the transfer of some of the public offices to the Fort has been engaging the attention of Government,

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and I do feel that it is a great pity that there should be such a big pile of buildings inside the Fort, which could be occupied, perhaps, by all the offices in South Travancore and that yet there should be a scramble for room at Thuckalai and that we should be paying a rent for the local Additional Munsiff's court. My recollection is that I have passed orders to investigate the feasibility of transferring the taluk office and the Sanketham Cutcherry inside the Fort. My office is unable to give any definite information about it just now. The matter is thus engaging my attention. That is all that I can say at present.

The next thing you said is that you apprehend that the Additional District Magistrate's court might be transferred to Nagercoil. There is no such proposal before Government.

In regard to road repairs, you referred to an incident that occurred immediately after the last floods when you wanted to do some repair works and the P. W. D. would not allow you to do them. The policy of the Government is to transfer the maintenance of roads in towns to such Municipalities as are willing to take over their maintenance. That was the principle laid down at the first Municipal Conference, and the Alleppey and the Nagercoil Municipal Councils have already taken over the maintenance of some of the roads in their towns on the understanding that Government would give them the full maintenance allotment for the first year and one-half of the allotment for the next four years. That is not an unchangeable condition. It could be altered when necessary. Government are anxious that the Municipal Councils themselves should do this maintenance and I would suggest your bringing up the matter before your Municipal Council and getting a resolution passed, agreeing to take over the management of the minor roads, lanes and streets in your town, subject to the usual conditions. Government will certainly consider the proposals of the Council carefully and sanction them if they are reasonable. I am greatly obliged to you for your constructive suggestion in regard to finding money for local improvements. That is the sort of suggestion that I want Municipal Councils to make. You have got certain hollows in your town and you want to fill them up as the place is malarious. One sure way to get rid of malaria is to fill the hollow pools there. You say : "we have not got money." Government also say the same thing. How is the problem to be settled ? Well, you suggest that, if some way-side sites are sold to the best advantage, which the Municipal Council could do better than Government, that money could be utilised by the Municipality. That is the sort of suggestion that I want from Municipalities. "Here is a hollow. There is a bit of waste land. Let us sell them and spend the money for filling the hollows." If you make such a proposal to Government, Government will be very glad to consider it. Your proposal to transfer, with absolute powers of disposal, all vacant grounds in the town to the Municipality, is, however, I am afraid, too large a proposition. But Government would be prepared to consider any concrete proposals as regards individual sites. You may come up to Government and say: "Here is a plot of waste land ; we are confident of selling it to the best advantage ; we will realise a larger amount than Government. We will take one-half or three-fourths of the money realised and give the balance to the Government." Government would be very glad to consider such a proposal and comply with such a request as far as possible.

As for the continuance of the Government grant to your Council, I do not think that I should make a reply which would commit me for all time to come ; but if you convince the Government that you are really in want of funds and that you are using your resources properly, Government will be very glad to help you.

82. Some urgent needs of the Neyyattinkara Municipality.

Mr. A. S. Sankaranarayana Pillai (Member, Municipal Council, Neyyatinkara) said that the total area of the Municipal town of Neyyattinkara was about 10 square miles and that the present town limits covered places which were sparsely inhabited and which did not satisfy the conditions necessary for being brought within municipal administration. He cited, as instances, a good portion of the Amaravila Cutcherry and Vlangamuri wards. Resolutions by the Council recommending the exclusion of the above places had not been favourably considered by the Government. He submitted

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